TWENTY—THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

FOR THE

Biennial Period Ending June 30
1928

Institution Located at

JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN

Being Part of the Biennial Report of the State Board of Control of Wisconsin

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WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN

FOR THE

BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1928

OFFICERS

JUNIUS T. HOOPER	Superintendent and Steward
B. MARJORIE SEATON	Matron
FLORENCE MCKINNON	Accountant and Librarian
ALICE BARRETT	Stenographer
HARRIET PARISH	Girls' Supervisor
CORNELIA PEASLEE	Boys' Supervisor
ETHEL VAN DOOZER	Kindergarten Supervisor
M. A. MCGALLOWAY	Field Worker
BERTHA O. FENWICK	Nurse
MINNIE WAHLERS	Usher
MARY O'BRIEN	Office Assistant

INSTRUCTORS

U. G. BUSSAN, *Principal*

Literary Department

U. G. BUSSAN	High School
PRUDENCE M. BUSSAN	High School
BERTHA BLEEDORN	High School
SUSAN MURPHY	Grammar Grades
A. MARGARET UETZ	Intermediate Grades
HELEN L. TUTTLE	Primary Grades
TOMSYNA CARLYLE	Primary Grades
CARL J. ENGLER	Typewriting
BEATRICE WALTON	Kindergarten
CLARA RAUSH	Cadet
SAPHRONIE PETERSON	Cadet

Musical Department

ANNA K. MEANS	Piano and Pipe Organ
LAURA ENGLESON	Piano
BLANCHE CORNELL	Piano
ENID MORGAN HOYER	Vocal
HERBERT ADAMS	Orchestra

Industrial Department

HERMAN VOLAND	Weaving
FRED C. HOYER	Tuning
FRED M. BARNETT	Caning, Basketry and Hammocks
L. G. MCCULLOCH	Brooms

Home Economics Department

GERTRUDE LINEHAN	Domestic Science
ROMELLE CHAB	Assistant Domestic Science

Physical Department

MARJORIE KRANHOLD	Director

Opened 1849

Capacity 75 Males, 65 Females, Total 140

New students admitted: 1927, 25; 1928, 23.
Average daily enrollment: 1927, 128; 1928, 129.
Average number of officers and employes: 1927, 79; 1928, 79.
Average number of pupils per employes: 1927, 1.6; 1928, 1.6.
Net operation and maintenance expenses: 1927, $125,173.43; 1928, $124,187.09.
Per capita cost per week: 1927, $18.81; 1928, $18.51.
Capital expenditures: 1927, $15,384.14; 1928, $8,062.36.
Farm products consumed: 1927, $11,168.58; 1928, $10,971.21.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

TO THE HONORABLE STATE BOARD OF CONTROL:

I hereby submit the twenty-third Biennial Report of the Wisconsin School for the Blind for the two years ending June 30, 1928.

The past biennial has been one of uncertainty and retardation due to the lack of additional appropriation for new work in operation and an utter lack of any definite appropriation for repairs, renewals, and new capital. Uncertainty always has a deadening effect upon plans and policies, and reflects upon the work of an institution and the good which can be accomplished for those for whom the institution is provided.

Moreover, as long as superintendents are elected annually, there is always an uncertain tenure of office and a consequent timidity in working out plans calling for a continuous policy and a gradual and definite improvement of work. Until the superintendents of Wisconsin State Institutions can have an indefinite tenure of office, removable only for inefficiency or other cause, Wisconsin cannot expect the efficiency which it ought to secure from officers in charge of its institutions. We believe that the whole legal structure by which superintendents and members of the Board of Control are appointed and their tenure of office determined, ought to be so remedied so that security and long service, both of the superintendents and members of the Board can be obtained. Wisconsin is a progressive state, yet in these respects it is far behind the progress of many of the other states of the Union, and a united effort should be made by all interested in the welfare of the handicapped, defective and dependent, to bring about a more stable and a more permanent condition for their welfare.

Notwithstanding the conditions which have prevailed during the past biennial, we have made some progress in our work. Many times in our biennial reports we have emphasized the fact that this institution is a school and its aim, operation and management is distinctly different from that of most institutions under the care of the Board of Control. This is a feature which we have tried to impress not only upon the Board but upon all of the people of the State of Wis-

consin. We have made some progress along the line of educating the masses in this subject. Our exhibits before the legislature at the State Fair, talks and exhibitions before noonday service clubs and other groups have done much. Visits to this institution by schools, clubs, and other groups have been more frequent and more effective, and we feel considerable progress has been made toward educating the people of Wisconsin in a right attitude towards and a right understanding of the blind and the problems which we have to meet.

The very condition which arose out of the lack of appropriations has centered the minds of many people upon this institution, and in fact all of the institutions under the Board. Moreover, it has advertised and brought to the public mind our needs and aims in a very emphatic manner. So much discussion has arisen out of present conditions that, no doubt, the loss of the past biennial will probably be more than made up by the future support and cooperation from all the people of the state.

While we have made progress in impressing upon the people the nature of this institution, there is still much to be done. We are an educational institution, but on account of the handicap of our students, the work is highly specialized educational work. Classes are necessarily small and the number of teachers required to carry on the work is much larger than the number required in the ordinary public schools of the state. Blind children must be instructed in small groups or as individuals, which of course, increases the cost of running this institution. Moreover, the cost of books and apparatus is considerably more than that required for the seeing children. If we are to keep up our high standards and improve the work which we are already doing, this fact must be borne in mind in making appropriations and in providing the means for carrying on the Wisconsin School for the Blind.

We are doing splendid work. Visitors from other institutions of like character from all over the world, visitors from seeing schools, parents and others interested in the work we are doing, universally express their commendations of the high standards which we are setting, and of the efficiency which is accomplished under all conditions. But if we are to remain satisfied with what we have accomplished we will certainly cease to grow, and when we cease to grow we become stale and decline. Only plans and policies which have an enlarging outlook and make provisions for growth and progress are worthy of consideration. Even though it calls for a larger outlay to keep the work at a very high standard, it is economy in the end because such a policy gives effective expression to the very end for which the institution is established.

While we emphasized the fact that this is a school, we must also bear in mind it is also a home. Most of our children spend more of their active life from the age of four to twenty at the Wisconsin School for the Blind than they do with their own parents in their own homes. If we are to make their school the kind of a home which it ought to be, we must provide a home where happiness, contentment,

high ideals, real expression of family life, and a consideration for others are inculcated and expressed. This institution has been commended time and time again for its real home-like atmosphere. We try to establish pleasant, happy, congenial surroundings, and we try hard to bring about conditions that will of themselves inculcate the high standards and the atmosphere which we are most anxious to secure. If we are to continue the high standards, we must also be able to improve the home and to have a broader and a growing policy. Children are very responsive to environment and the proper environment, both as to real home life and to physical conditions, are just as necessary for blind people as they are for seeing people. These can be accomplished only by liberal policies, yet the outlay for environment is the cheapest outlay that can possibly be made because it saves an effort and an outlay which would be far less effective and far more costly if made along the so-called educational lines.

To give the proper atmosphere, to teach the right modes of living, politeness and thoughtfulness for others, to develop high moral standards requires teachers, housemothers, and supervisors of splendid quality and high standards. Such employees are rare and they can be obtained only by paying a wage somewhat adequate to the service rendered. It is with this thought in mind we have asked for an increase in the appropriation for salaries and trust that the Board and appropriating bodies will consider the desired service when they are weighing the request for the increased appropriations.

A very important element in the education of children is the maintenance of good health. In this respect we have made considerable progress in the past biennial. The employment of a clinic and a trained nurse who give their attention not only to the curing of diseases but to the prevention of same, and to the improvement of physical conditions and eliminating inherited tendencies are great factors in bringing about healthful conditions. Our children are continually showing less tendency towards disease and they are exhibiting a more healthful and stronger physical condition as each year goes by. We notice especially a decrease in a number of underweight children, and an utter absence of sieges of diphtheria, smallpox, scarlet fever and typhoid. The administrating of toxins and serums for preventive purposes is showing splendid results, and the saving in time and outlay as a result of improved health conditions more than compensates for the outlay for the cost of the clinic and the nurse. Moreover, the absolute cure of many of our children who have come to us with inherited syphilis, the building up and growth of cretins and other similar defects, have been matters which have shown real progress and gratifying results.

There is, however, a great need for the employment of a regular dentist who will give us part time service. This was requested in our last biennial report and we are again stressing the need at this time. We trust that provisions will be made for the adequate care of the teeth of our children. When this is done the medical side of

our preventive work will be well under way and our children will be taken care of in a manner which modern knowledge and modern humanity demands.

In addition to the medical side of the health problem comes the side of directed play and encouraged physical activity. The blind are especially inclined to sedative habits. For years we have stressed the idea of play and physical activity at two recess periods each day. We are still in need, however, of equipment for outdoor play and activity, and while we have a physical director giving full time to this phase of our work, we are asking for more money for equipment and apparatus so that the work of this teacher can be more interesting and more effective.

The work of the musical department for the past biennial has been of the usual high standard. Along the line of music we rank among the best done by institutions of this kind in the world; and we are far more advanced in musical education than any of the public schools of the state. We are asking the usual appropriation for musical instruments, music and pianos which are required to hold the work at the present high standard.

In manual arts and home economics we are developing along the most practical lines, trying as far as our experience shows and the needs of the adult's requirements demand to prepare the child for a useful, self-supporting, self-respecting life. The policy of Wisconsin in having the work for the blind under the supervision of one head gives us a decided advantage in this work. We are able not only to test the efficiency of the work done in the school, but also have a guide as to what is required in the outside world, and can readily see the things that will be most helpful in preparing our students for the real work of life. I think we can truthfully say that our handicraft departments are making wonderful progress and are doing much to solve the problems in the industrial education of the blind.

Along the lines of literary subjects we have strengthened the courses which run from the kindergarten through the high school by adding a course in social problems and giving an elective course in German. Our graduates are admitted to the universities, normal schools and colleges upon their certificate of graduation the same as graduates of other high schools of the state. In no case have we found a graduate of our school unable to carry effectively the work of higher institutions in which they have undertaken collegiate work. In many instances we have had reports in which the reporting officer has definitely stated that the foundation work of our pupils is not only up to the standard, but in many respects more thorough and broader than is usually given to high school pupils. Time and time again we have had reports from the libraries where books have been drawn to be read to blind people in which the librarian has shown agreeable surprise at the high type of literary subjects asked for in the selection of the books. On the whole this line of work of the school has been very satisfactory.

Nowhere can be shown more progress than the work done at the summer school for the adult blind. During the past two summers we have had an enrollment of eighty-nine in 1927 and eighty-two in 1928. However, it is not in numbers alone we have shown progress. The results obtained, the keenness and interest with which the students have approached their work, the intensive application and the real results obtained seem to us more marvelous each year. I believe it can truthfully be said that nowhere in the world is there more rehabilitation work done for the money expended than is accomplished at the summer school for the adult blind. The work improves each year and the interest shown and the number of people who desire the training increases with the improvement.

However, we have reached the point where the work can no longer be carried on under the appropriation granted. Thirty-five hundred dollars was allowed when the enrollment was supposed to be between thirty and forty. We cannot carry on the work for eighty to ninety adults under the appropriation intended for thirty to forty. The lack of additional appropriation was a great disappointment to us for the past biennial, and has made it necessary for us to lay aside some plans for improvement and growth in the work. We trust, however, that the next legislature will make up for the loss and grant us the desired increase. If there is any part of the work that is deserving of an adequate appropriation, it is the work of the summer school of the Wisconsin School for the Blind.

In connection with the summer school, the work of the Agency for the Adult Blind is an interlocking and an ever aiding factor. The Agency helps us to find those in need of the summer school training, guides us in planning their work, and takes care of those who have been rehabilitated in providing them employment, in providing them raw materials to work upon, and in taking care of the sales of the finished products. The wisdom of the policy of Wisconsin in having a unity of supervision over all the work of the blind is shown most remarkably in the dovetailing of the school, the summer school, the State Agency, and the Workshop. Each works for the other, each guides the other, each tests the other in its work and its achievements. I am attaching the report of the director of the Agency as a part of our report to the Board.

PHYSICAL PLANT

The physical plant of the school is not in as good a condition as it has been for the past eight or ten years because of the lack of appropriation adequate to make all the necessary repairs and improvements. We have done only such work as is absolutely necessary to keep things in condition. Many parts of the building needing minor repairs and redecorating have not had the usual attention on account of lack of funds to carry on the work. This is one of the oldest plants among the state institutions, and it is necessary to do considerable repair work each year in order to keep out deterioration and

in order to most economically take care of the property of the state. On account of the lack of appropriations for the last biennial we are asking for an increased amount for the next two years in order to bring the condition of our buildings into the usual state of repairs. We have noted a detail of our requirements in our estimate budget which we have submitted to the Board for that purpose.

There are several additions which should be attended to as soon as possible, and we recommend the requests which we have submitted be made to the incoming legislature so that we may keep the physical plant in adequate shape for an economic administration of the institution.

Among the things which we have asked for are: a sun porch in front of the building; a hospital and domestic science cottage; a chicken house; water softener and a new pump and water supply, which were asked for but not allowed at the last session of the legislature. We believe each one of these things should be granted. The water softener is an absolute necessity. The hardness of the water in this vicinity and the necessity for the use of strong softeners in the laundry costs the state considerable each year on account of the deterioration and the short life of the washable household equipment. A new water supply is also necessary and has been recommended for several years by the State Engineering Department.

If we are to keep chickens, and we believe it is an economic plan for any institution, we must have a new chicken house. During the past two years we have been able to get along without a chicken house because the farm which we had rented had a chicken house and supplied our needs. The lease on this property expires April first, and unless a new house is provided we will have no place in which to keep our chickens.

The new hospital and the domestic science cottage seems to us very desirable, if not almost an absolute necessary addition to our physical plant. If we had the hospital we could care for children slightly indisposed, isolate any suspects, and still more prevent disease, thus increasing our health and decreasing the cost arising from waste and sickness. We feel that a domestic science cottage can be built in connection with a hospital in which we can house our high school girls, and teach a very practical side of home life in a way which cannot be taught except in a building of this kind. Moreover, the girls' side of the house is becoming congested, and already we have more beds in rooms than ought to be allowed. There is a need for more dormitory space for the older girls. The domestic science building would not only give us the additional plant for the use of the domestic science department, but it would also supply the much needed dormitory space on the girls' side. The need for this has been brought about because during the past three or four years, there has been an increased proportion of girls attending the school. The number of boys was always much greater than the number of girls until the last year or so. Now there is almost an equal number of each sex, and while we have plenty of dormitory space on the boys' side we are lacking it on the girls' side.

The sun porch asked for has been one that we have requested a number of times and we still believe such a porch would be a great factor in supplying the proper recreation space in a healthful, cheerful location.

We have also asked for a garage for the cars of employees. The time is long past when we can expect to employ men and women at an institution two miles from the center of town without providing room for storage of automobiles. This is an age where working people use cars and the state must do the same as large corporations, provide space for storage of the same.

We have asked for a new barn. We have one of the finest herds not only in the state of Wisconsin but anywhere in the United States. The winnings on the show circuit during the past season, the records made in the Cow Testing Associations, where out of over seventy-eight thousand cows tested in all breeds and all ages in 1927, we had number one, number nine, number twenty-nine and number thirty-one, shows the kind of a herd we have. Our barn is old, damp, dark, and it is not at all the kind of a barn that should house a herd of this quality. We hope the new barn will be included in the recommendations to the legislature and will receive favorable consideration by them.

There is one other request which we wish to emphasize. We are bothered a great deal at this institution after dark by hoodlums and trespassers coming on to the property and destroying apparatus and stealing produce. Moreover, the necessity of close supervision over the different sexes makes it necessary that the grounds should be well lighted at all times. We hope the request for the appropriation for lighting the grounds will therefore be received with favorable consideration. An adequate program for the physical plant of this institution should embrace the recommendations made.

We have attached the statistical tables which are ordinarily submitted with our biennial report.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. HOOPER,
Superintendent.

GRADUATES DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS

1927

Charles K. Heath ..... Baraboo
Martin F. Lange ..... Gleason
Evelyn G. Preston ..... Joel
Raymond M. Smith ..... Stevens Point
Bernice M. Tondreau ..... Marinette
Fred A. Williams ..... Wauwatosa

1928

Marguerite V. Gray ..... Lake Geneva
Julia Bernice Hoppe ..... Stevens Point
Arthur Kowalski ..... Milwaukee
Joseph Mighelignik ..... Sheboygan
Leonard Newman ..... Beaver Dam
Fannie E. Pratsch ..... De Pere
Hazel Geneva Schlisner ..... Tomah
Norma Bernice Williams ..... Shawano

TABLE I—SHOWING MOVEMENT OF POPULATION AT THE WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1928

	Year Ending June 30, 1927	Year Ending June 30, 1928
Number present at the beginning of each fiscal year		
Returned from homes and leave of absence	111	121
Original admissions during the year	25	23
Totals	136	144
Graduated	6	8
Left school during year	5	13
Dropped for various reasons	0	0
Out on visit home	125	123
Totals	136	144
Average daily number of pupils	128	129

TABLE II—SHOWING ENROLLMENT OF PUPILS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

For the school years	Males	Females	Total
1918–1919	70	46	116
1919–1920	64	49	113
1920–1921	67	44	111
1921–1922	70	52	122
1922–1923	73	57	130
1923–1924	65	51	116
1924–1925	75	59	134
1925–1926	77	62	139
1926–1927	70	66	136
1927–1928	76	68	144
Summer School:			
1919–1920	31		31
1920–1921	50		50
1921–1922	42	19	61
1922–1923	31	18	49
1923–1924	43	28	71
1924–1925	53	28	81
1925–1926	42	38	80
1926–1927	45	44	89
1927–1928	46	36	82

TABLE III—SHOWING DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTIES OF RESIDENCE OF ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AT ANY TIME DURING THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1928

Barron	1	Manitowoc	2
Bayfield	2	Marathon	6
Brown	3	Marinette	8
Burnett	1	Milwaukee	11
Chippewa	3	Monroe	9
Clark	2	Oconto	4
Columbia	1	Oneida	2
Crawford	1	Outagamie	1
Dane	6	Polk	4
Dodge	3	Portage	3
Douglas	2	Pierce	1
Door	1	Price	1
Dunn	2	Racine	4
Eau Claire	4	Richland	1
Florence	1	Rock	8
Fond du Lac	1	St. Croix	1
Forest	1	Sauk	1
Grant	2	Shawano	6
Green	1	Sheboygan	2
Iowa	1	Trempealeau	2
Jackson	3	Vernon	1
Juneau	1	Walworth	3
Kenosha	7	Washburn	1
La Crosse	4	Waukesha	8
Lafayette	1	Waupaca	1
Langlade	4	Winnebago	7
Lincoln	4	Wood	1

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SCHOOL FOR BLIND

		1926	1927	1927	1928
	Operation:				
July 1	Bal. in hands of Steward	$392.35		$392.35	
	Bal. of 1925-26 Appr.	374.35			
	Bal. of 1926-27 Appr.			711.82	
				8,084.63*	
	Appropriation 20.17	91,230.00		91,230.00	
June 30	Refunds	70.63		119.75	
	Disbursements		$90,963.16		$100,146.20
	Bal. in hands of Steward		392.35		392.35
	Bal. of 1926-27 Appr.		711.82		
	Bal. of 1927-28 Appr.				
		$92,067.33	$92,067.33	$100,538.55	$100,538.55
	Repairs & Maintenance:				
July 1	Balance	$7,270.78		$7,919.08	
	Appropriations	17,650.00		2,113.32*	
June 30	Refunds				
	Disbursements		$17,001.70		$10,032.40
	Balance		7,919.08		
		$24,920.78	$24,920.78	$10,032.40	$10,032.40
	Permanent Property & Improvements:				
July 1	Balance	$5,382.58		$6,543.70	
	Appropriation	8,700.00			
June 30	Refunds	50.66		10.61	
	Disbursements		$7,589.51		$5,507.75
	Balance		6,543.70		1,046.56
		$14,133.24	$14,133.21	$6,554.31	$6,554.31
	Livestock Revolving:				
July 1	Balance	$459.19		$.45	
June 30	Receipts	7,015.53		5,659.12	
	Disbursements		$7,474.27		$5,812.37
	Balance		.45	152.80 overd.	
		$7,474.72	$7,474.72	$5,812.37	$5,812.37
4214	**Summer School:**				
	Balance	$829.05		$81.05	
				644.35*	
	Appropriation	3,500.00		3,500.00	
	Refunds				
	Disbursements		$4,248.00		$4,225.40
	Balance		81.05		
		$4,329.05	$4,329.05	$4,225.40	$4,225.40
4216	**Aid to Blind Students:**				
	Balance	$1,279.00		$699.85	
	Appropriation	3,000.00		3,000.00	
	Refunds				
	Disbursements		$2,300.15		$1,752.45
	Balance (1925-26)		1,279.00		(27) 559.85
	Balance (1926-27)		699.85		(28) 1,387.55
		$4,279.00	$4,279.00	$3,699.85	$3,699.85
4210	**Field Agency:**				
	Balance	$11,047.27		$2,994.28	
	Appropriation	15,000.00		15,000.00	
	Refunds				
	Disbursements		$23,052.99		$17,327.08
	Balance		2,994.28		667.20
		$26,047.27	$26,047.27	$17,994.28	$17,994.28

* Chapter 2—Second Special Session, 1928.

Special Capital	Balances	Approp. and Refunds	Disbursements	Balances
Root Cellar	$3,815.13	----------	$3,815.13	----------
Engine Room Floor	500.00	----------	----------	$500.00
Fire Loss (1926-27-28)	----------	$2,451.21	2,374.90	76.31
Total	$4,315.13	$2,451.21	$6,190.03	$576.31

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FIELD AGENCY FOR ADULT BLIND

J. T. HOOPER, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND:

This report will be made more intelligible by a brief review of the task which the Agency has in hand.

There are in our files histories of 2,627 blind people. Of these nearly 50% are 60 years of age and older. There is also a very large number of blind people who have additional handicaps. Ill health is the chief of these, but there is a handicap which we may speak of as a lack of adaptability. Such people have not the mentality that would enable them to pursue a profession, so that they are well nigh helpless in the work-a-day world.

When we take into consideration the very large proportion of older people and people with additional handicaps we discover that less than one-third of the blind people are capable of being trained successfully in a way of self support. No exact figures can be given relative to additional handicaps, for such figures would have to be based upon an intensive survey of the population of the state, and the Agency judges that its funds can be used more advantageously in other ways.

It is now a little more than four years since the Agency began its work. Although many people have been assisted in business ways and many others have been given instructions that have made life more worth the living, still we regard ourselves so far as experimental. We believe that with our experience we are now in a position to help an increasingly large number of blind in their effort toward self support.

The work of the Agency is divided into the following activities:

First: Keeping a census of the blind.
Second: Home teaching of the blind.
Third: Purchasing raw materials and selling the finished product for the blind.
Fourth: Finding employment for the blind.
Fifth: Assisting the blind and county boards in county adjustings.

The work of the Agency will be presented under the above five headings.

CENSUS OF THE BLIND

The statistical tables listed below are based upon investigations largely made by Mr. M. A. McGalloway, the field agent for the Wisconsin School for the Blind and facts gathered by the home teachers. We should also mention the work of Miss Turner the first regular field worker for the school as well as the investigations conducted by the Bureau for the Care of the Blind. It will be noted that blindness increases rapidly with age. It is decidedly a handicap of adults rather than children and it is most commonly found among old people.

DISTRIBUTION OF BLIND AS TO COUNTIES

Adams	14	Marinette	40
Ashland	14	Marquette	3
Barron	42	Milwaukee	199
Bayfield	16	Monroe	36
Brown	46	Oconto	38
Buffalo	6	Oneida	20
Burnett	11	Outagamie	61
Calumet	12	Ozaukee	13
Chippewa	56	Pepin	6
Clark	36	Pierce	25
Columbia	36	Polk	19
Crawford	22	Portage	28
Dane	58	Price	7
Dodge	33	Racine	72
Door	25	Richland	18
Douglas	63	Rock	97
Dunn	30	Rusk	14
Eau Claire	48	St. Croix	26
Florence	1	Sauk	45
Fond du Lac	40	Sawyer	9
Forest	7	Shawano	49
Grant	61	Sheboygan	45
Green	26	Taylor	16
Green Lake	6	Trempealeau	30
Iowa	12	Vernon	27
Iron	11	Vilas	16
Jackson	35	Walworth	48
Jefferson	54	Washburn	14
Juneau	38	Washington	15
Kenosha	38	Waukesha	42
Kewaunee	10	Waupaca	29
La Crosse	19	Waushara	23
Lafayette	13	Winnebago	77
Langlade	24	Wood	38
Lincoln	15		
Manitowoc	33		
Marathon	44		2,627

PERCENTAGE AS TO AGES OF BLIND

	Per cent
Less than six years old	.007
6 to 20 years	.121
21 to 49 years	.266
50 to 59 years	.112
60 years and older	.494

Fifty-seven and one half per cent of the blind population being male and 42½ per cent female.

HOME TEACHING

The work of the home teachers is assuming an increasingly large place in the interests of the Agency. One cannot possibly give anything like an adequate idea of the work that these devoted women are doing.

The home teaching department was instituted with the appointment of Cassandria Carr and Stella Hamilton, September 1, 1924. Two months later Caroline Palmer was added to the force and Alice Otto took up the work in the fall of 1925.

Owing to lack of funds the home teaching was discontinued December 15, 1927.

All of the states that have done anything like a large work for the blind have regarded home teaching as an indispensable department of their work. The home teacher gives instruction in a wide range of subjects. Among the subjects they teach are finger reading, Braille writing, typewriting, hand and machine sewing, fancy work, basketry and household tasks as well as the common primary branches such as arithmetic, geography, spelling, grammar, and etc. In a word, each home teacher holds herself in readiness to meet the needs that arise in the lives of the people they serve.

The objection has been put forward by many that home teaching in this state is an unnecessary expense, because of the opportunities given to the adult blind by the summer school. Such an objection is decidedly superficial. There are to begin with many blind people who cannot possibly leave home for a period of eight weeks. This is true for instance of both men and women who live upon farms, for in the rush of farm work during the summer months blind men are very often able to assist materially in caring for the stock while blind women if in reasonable health can give just as valuable service in household work.

There are also blind people who are precluded from attending school because of ill health as well as other handicaps. At the same time these people can learn to read and often can be taught a handicraft.

A case in point is a blind man who a few years ago lost his hearing. His health as well became seriously impaired. For him to leave home was simply unthinkable, but through the services of a home teacher he received training that enabled him to develop and make a certain class of baskets that have proven to be good sellers. Something like $800.00 worth of these were disposed of during the past year. Many other cases might be mentioned to illustrate the point.

Hundreds of old people have been taught to read Braille. No one can measure the satisfaction that these blind readers experience when they find that the power to read is again given back to them for it must be kept constantly in mind that practically all of these people lost their sight when they were well on in life.

The summer school and the home teaching department greatly help each other. The attendance at summer school has been definitely

increased through the efforts of the home teachers. Most blind people are extremely reluctant to leave home for the purpose of attending school. It often takes the utmost persuasion to bring them to a right attitude. A few instructions by a home teacher makes them realize how much more they can get at the summer school.

We do not maintain that the home teaching department pays when measured in money, still it is surprising to know how many are helping in various degrees to add to the family income by means of some simple handicraft like chair caning, or basketry, or crocheting of rugs.

Nor should we forget that the home teacher is greatly increasing the contacts between the blind person and his or her community.

Where figures are available it is discovered that in other states not less than $3,000.00 is estimated as an annual expense of the home teacher. We in Wisconsin have greatly lowered this figure by dispensing with a salaried guide for the teachers.

The average annual cost to the state for the home teacher in Wisconsin is about $1,900.00. We do not believe that there is any decrease in efficiency traceable to such policy. Our teachers, of course are urged and expected to employ guides when and where they think it necessary. They certainly do not feel that they are experiencing a hardship because a guide is not furnished regularly.

The best way to give an adequate idea of the work of the home teacher is to submit a statement of a home teacher covering work actually done.

GENERAL REPORT OF HOME TEACHING

Sept. 1, 1924 to Sept. 1, 1927

The following is an account of the work done by one of the four home teachers under the State Agency for Adult Blind. The counties included in the territory are: Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee and Sheboygan.

A total of 2,445 calls were made on or on behalf of 1,049 individuals. The cases handled may be classified under the following heads.

Investigation, including all cases of which the Agency has no complete history as well as those referred to me by local organizations.

Instruction, covering all cases where training in one or various lines will be of value in a commercial or social way.

Social, including all who are unable to take training, but where it is necessary to check up as to their surroundings, general condition and to bring the case to the attention of the proper local organization handling such cases.

The following figures show that the work of the home teacher is increasing both in the city and in the rural districts.

	Calls	Instructions	Individuals	Investigations	Social	Total
1924	274	90	18	40	75	133
1925	746	289	33	109	107	249
1926	767	390	35	110	156	301
1927	658	243	29	97	240	366
	2,445	1,012	115	356	578	1,049

Sixty-three individuals have learned to read and write Braille.

Twelve individuals have learned to read Moon type.

Twenty-three individuals have learned to use the pencil board.

Twenty-two individuals have learned to use the typewriter.

Fifteen individuals have learned to speak better English, and two of these have made application for the United States Citizenship.

Twenty-seven individuals have received instructions in needlework.

Seven individuals have had instructions in weaving.

Seven individuals have had instructions in caning.

Twenty-one individuals have learned to do basketry.

One hundred ninety-seven pension cases have been brought to the attention of the county clerks.

Two hundred fourteen individuals have received beneficial calls in homes, hospitals and sanatoriums and their particular needs brought to the attention of those in position to help.

Forty-four children have been brought to the attention of school boards, nurses and child welfare workers doing follow-up work.

Eighty-three cases were referred to the Red Cross and

Fifty cases to county poor offices.

STELLA K. HAMILTON.

SALES DEPARTMENT

During the first half of the biennial period of July, 1926 to July, 1928 the sales department was conducted along the same lines laid down the previous one and one half years.

Mr. Costigan, our salesman pushed the sales for broommakers and rug weavers and met with a reasonable success and substantial gains in volume of sales.

The Agency also conducted special sales such as pre-holiday sales in Milwaukee. It also exhibited the work of the blind through finished products and demonstrations at the state fair and at a few county fairs. These exhibits proved to be good advertising and met with considerable success in the way of sales. The high-water mark in pre-holiday sales was reached by the sale conducted in the Plankinton Arcade in Milwaukee during the first half of December, 1926, when nearly $2,000.00 worth of articles were sold.

We must also note the consumption of special sales through clubs, through contacts made by Miss Hulburt. Such sales showed marked promise during the fall of 1926 and they have continued to be the important feature of the sales department.

Although the blind are particularly skillful in the weaving of rugs, it became more and more evident to us that we were falling down grievously in finding a market for their product. As noted in our previous report, sales were made to department stores, hospitals and various state institutions, but a market of this sort was restricted to meet an expanding business.

Mr. Costigan made experiments in the way of house to house canvassing which proved that our weavers were making a rug that would sell when its good points were presented to the customer. Two experienced rug men were shown our rug and they immediately became convinced that it was the best washable rug they knew of on the market. They wished to work as salesmen for the Agency, but that was neither possible because of the lack of funds nor desirable in any case for we felt that the business should support itself to a very large extent. Mr. Costigan therefore induced the two salesmen, Mr. Fryda and Mr. Tykol, to form a sales company under the name of Wisconsin Blind Products.

We arranged to sell rugs, brooms and other articles to the Sales Company in accordance with a definite schedule of prices. The Company was to pay cash for all goods delivered to it and were to sell these goods by means of house to house canvassers who were to be responsible alone to the Sales Company and not to the Agency. On our part we furnish letters to the Sales Company guaranteeing that the articles it is offering for sale were made by blind workers of Wisconsin.

It became evident almost at once that the Fuller Brush Company showed good judgment in selecting house to house canvassing as the method of disposing of their product, for our sales developed far more rapidly than we had supposed they could. The Wisconsin Blind Products placed its first order with us early in July, 1927, so we have been doing good business through it slightly less than one year.

The house to house canvassers take orders for rugs and turn over these orders to us through the Sales Company. These orders are distributed by us to our weavers. It is thus readily seen that every rug that our weavers make is strictly on order and really is sold before it is made.

It was determined at the beginning that only three styles of rugs, woven in various combinations of colors were to be placed on the market. The salesmen virtually narrowed the sales to two styles of rugs.

The Agency placed the orders of the salesmen with two of our best weavers to begin with. This number has been added to from time to time by taking weavers in whose work we had confidence. There are now sixteen weavers producing rugs for the Wisconsin Blind Products. The Sales Company is not only handling rugs, but has been selling a considerable number of brooms, amounting to several hundred dollars a month. It is also handling the product of the Wisconsin Workshop for the Blind. It is in fact proving to be one of the most profitable customers that they have ever had.

Two things have happened during the past year that have tended to the falling off of broom sales for some of our broommakers out through the state. The increased rug business has tended to hold Mr. Costigan pretty close to the Milwaukee office of the Agency. The fact that his time is now divided between the Wisconsin Workshop for the Blind and the State Agency for the Blind has made it definitely impossible for him to get away from Milwaukee. If our Sales Company expands so as to cover practically the whole state, all of our workers will find their product in demand.

Most of our producers have little or no capital or credit so the Agency is obliged in the nature of the case to buy the raw materials and advance them to the workers. Such materials of course can not be paid for until the finished product is sold. Not having a revolving fund, we have borrowed money to be used as capital in conducting our business. We are necessarily greatly hampered because of a small amount of capital with such a method.

Up to September, 1927, we carried considerable stock of broom corn. Since that date we have discontinued the practice, although we are furnishing other broom supplies and occasionally broom corn to our men. Our rug business is being rather severely taxed because we are buying in such small quantities that we cannot command the advantage of reduced prices. We have been paying during the last year from eight to seventeen per cent for roving and warp more than we could have bought the same goods for were we purchasing in considerable quantities.

The question will naturally be asked "What is the weaver's profit and does it give him a decent wage?" None of our weavers produce less than three rugs a day. At present there are three at least who can easily weave eight rugs a day. As the profit in each rug is anywhere from fifty to eighty cents on a conservative estimate, the answer can readily be obtained. The weaver who was the first to take up production for the Sales Company cleared over and above all charges for material and shipping $1,380.00 from July 6, 1927 to July 1, 1928. We hope there will be several rivals for this high-water mark during the coming year.

No figures can be given that will measure accurately the sales that the Agency has made and obtained for blind workers. Mr. Costigan, for instance, often takes broom makers with him to paper mills and other factories where the broom maker has obtained contracts covering a year's needs. Any number of customers have been introduced to blind producers by members of the Agency's staff. We can only register the sales that go through our books and such other sales as we happen to have direct knowledge of because we have been instrumental in bringing them about.

Broom sales	$9,439.43
Rug sales	12,346.30
Special sales	4,230.68
Milwaukee office sales, January, 1927 to July, 1928	2,661.04
Grand total sales	$28,677.45

In all fairness to the Agency there ought to be added to the above grand total, sales amounting to not less than $15,000.00 brought about directly through the efforts of the staff of the Agency.

SUPPLIES PURCHASED FOR WORKERS

Rug supplies	$7,683.72
Broom supplies	5,771.62
Basketry supplies	630.55
Needlework supplies	2,209.93
Grand total supplies	$16,295.82

WORK OF EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY

July, 1926 to July, 1928

The activities of the Employment Secretary have been quite varied during the biennium. There have been the usual interviews in reference to employment of blind persons in positions usually filled by sighted people. Although the opportunities for such positions are extremely limited, the few placements which were made were permanent, both employer and employee apparently being well satisfied. As far as our knowledge goes the present number of blind persons employed in factories in Milwaukee is 22. In offices, stores, etc., 7.

Because of the changing methods of manufacturing which have practically eliminated the employment of blind people in factories, we have looked to other avenues of employment for the blind.

January 1, 1928 an office and salesroom was established and this afforded a permanent shop for articles made by the blind in their own homes, and could be on display and sold. This gave a larger market for the disposition of the articles. The employment of a competent blind stenographer and office assistant provided some one in charge of the office at all times.

Many opportunities presented themselves for speaking before clubs and church organizations and these contacts lead to arrangements being made for special sales through various organizations.

During the biennium 28 such sales were held besides 5 large sales held directly by the Agency. These 33 sales brought total receipts of $4,230.68. This money went directly to the workers who made the articles which were sold.

These sales have not only brought a considerable income to the blind workers, but have given a great deal of publicity to the work and have had much educational value.

As a result of the special sales and permanent sales, about 100 blind persons have been given assistance in disposing of their products.

Early in 1928 a special campaign was launched with the adoption of the slogan "A blind hemmed towel in every Wisconsin home". An appeal was made to various women's organizations and as the result of the co-operation of 38 such organizations our sales of towels up to July 1, 1928 was 3,080 with 900 additional towels in the hands

of the organizations to be sold. Ten women were given employment at hemming. Plans are under way for canvassing the entire state for the sale of towels.

Sales for the biennium, special sales and those made from the Milwaukee office exclusive of rugs is $6,484.96.

THE PENSION SITUATION

Every pension of whatever class presents problems that are disheartening, but we are glad to say that on the whole the system of pensions adopted by our state is working out satisfactorily.

In accordance with the law as it now stands, the annual income of an applicant for pension subtracted from $780.00 gives the amount of pension to which he is entitled, but in no case must his pension exceed $360.00 unless he is deaf as well as blind, in which case $480.00 is the maximum.

A few counties still are so generous to the blind that they are granting the maximum pension to all applicants. On the other hand there are a few counties which are anything but liberal in the granting of such pensions, but these extremes are exceptional. A great majority of the counties are showing a very fine attitude in their interpretation of the law and are discriminating carefully as to their actual needs of the pension.

It will be noted in the following figures that, although there is an increase of about $14,000.00 in the whole amount expended for pensions, there was also a corresponding increase in the number of pensioners so that the average pension is only thirty cents more per year for 1927 than in 1926. The average pension therefore, remains practically the same in spite of the fact that the legislature early in 1926 raised the income the blind person could have and still draw the pension, from $480.00 to $780.00.

It is also of interest to note that more than 70% of the blind pensioners are over 50 years of age. When one considers that many blind pensioners under 50 years of age have additional handicaps it becomes evident that on the whole, that young blind people in good health are not accepting pensions as a refuge. Of the pensioners almost exactly 60 per cent are men and 40 per cent are women. In the whole blind population 57½ per cent are men and 42½ per cent are women. These figures show that proportionately more blind men are drawing pensions than blind women. When one keeps in mind that many blind men have families depending upon them, such difference is quite inevitable.

BLIND PENSION STATISTICS

	1926	1927
Total blind population	2,397	2,627
Total female pensioners	414	440
Total male pensioners	624	657
Total male and female pensioners	1,038	1,097
Average pension	$241.21	$241.51
Total amount paid in pensions	$250,379.68	$264,943.86

OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In presenting this report covering the last two years, small though the results seem, we are encouraged to note the very substantial increase of results as compared with the previous two years.

Our sales for example have much more than doubled. This does not mean that the problem of selling the products made by the blind is solved. There are at least three lines of expansion. First: The enlargement of the work of the Sales Company as rapidly as they can secure sufficient and reliable canvassers. Second: The development of sales through Womens Clubs throughout the state. Miss Hulburt is proving that expansion in this direction has very encouraging possibilities. Third: The Agency must enlarge the number of special sales.

We must keep our eyes and minds open to more diversified occupations for the blind as well as to increasingly diversify the methods of marketing their products. We call attention to the report on employment and occupations. It is far from being complete. There are for example many blind people working on farms and proving that their labor is worth while.

We have in our files 2,600 or more individual histories of blind people, which have a great deal of material bearing on occupations. What is needed is additional office assistance a few weeks each year to enable us to fully digest a really remarkable mass of information that we have on file.

As to the financial needs of the Agency we call attention to the necessity of raising the salaries of the home teachers to a standard of $100.00 a month. Teachers of equal ability and training who have their sight could not possibly be obtained for the salaries we are now paying and even the proposed standard of $100.00 a month would be far from tempting. We also need to be in a financial position where we can purchase the products of the blind outright. Such a procedure would very greatly help the workers for they really cannot afford to wait for financial returns and it would enable the Agency to demand a high standard as to quality of the product. We are approaching a program of buying the products from the blind in the case of weavers and the result has been a very marked improvement in the quality of work done.

In conclusion we feel that through experiment we have learned much as to our own problem here in Wisconsin and we have actually broken new ground in this whole problem of work for the blind. We can now with confidence push forward in our work for the Wisconsin blind and we can study with profit, work that is being done in some of the other states and in Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

W. U. PARKS,
Director.